The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Men do less than they ought unless they do all that they can.—Carlyle.

WHOLE NO. 1090. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1932 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 21, NO. 51.

Party Pledges on Labor Injunction Legislation

Trade unions have long been recognized as legitimate organizations.

But their functioning power for the mutual benefit of their members and this advancement of Labor generally has been constantly and increasingly restricted by the unlimited power exercised by judges to issue injunctions prohibiting the unions from using the very rights which are necessary for efficient operation.

The Norris anti-injunction bill under consideration by the United States Senate is designed to remedy the injustices imposed on Labor by this abuse of the injunction process.

The Senate is controlled by the Republican Party. The House is controlled by the Democratic Party. It is therefore appropriate to direct attention to the recent platform declarations of these parties on the question of injunction in labor disputes.

The Republican National Convention of 1928 adopted the following plank:

"The party favors freedom in wage contracts, the right of collective bargaining by free and responsible agents of their own choosing, which develops and maintains that peaceful cooperation which gains its chief incentive through voluntary agreement.

"We believe that injunctions in labor disputes have in some instances been abused and have given rise to a serious question for legislation."

The Democratic National Convention of 1928 adopted the following plank:

"We favor the principle of collective bargaining and the democratic principle that organized labor should choose its own representatives without coercion or interference.

"We recognize that legislative and other investigations have shown the existence of grave abuse in the issuance of injunctions in labor disputes.

"Injunctions should not be granted in labor disputes except upon proof of threatened irreparable injury and after notice and hearing; and the injunction should be confined to those which do directly threaten irreparable injury.

"The expressed purpose of representatives of capital, labor and the bar to devise a plan for the elimination of the present evils with respect to injunctions must be supported and legislation designed to accomplish these ends formulated and passed."

The enactment of the Norris anti-injunction bill will redeem these pledges made four years ago.

With the Republican Party in control of the Senate and the Democratic Party in control of the House the matter becomes a nonpartisan question.

There should be prompt action on the Norris bill.

Drive for One Million Jobs Backed by President Green

All Local Unions Are Urged to Give Their Full Support to Campaign to Employ the Idle—Work Is the Real Remedy for Unemployment, American Federation of Labor Chief Declares.

Washington, Feb. 27.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, urged all local organizations representing organized labor to give complete cooperation to the Federation's drive for jobs for a million workers conducted by the American Legion, the American Federation of Labor, the Association of National Advertisers and other organizations, with headquarters in New York City.

President Green said:

"The drive against unemployment, which is being made by the American Legion, the American Federation of Labor, the Association of National Advertisers and associated organizations, is attracting widespread attention.

"Thousands of men and women are being found employment.

"The success thus far gained justifies the conclusion that within a short time more than a million unemployed workers will be placed at work.

"The Nation is being given an object lesson as to what can be done through a practical, systematic drive against unemployment. Finding work for those who are idle is the real remedy for unemployment.

"The American Federation of Labor is proud to be associated with this practical, constructive work which is being carried on in such a successful way.

"All the subordinate local organizations, representing organized labor in the States, cities and towns of the Nation are being called upon to give full cooperation and support to the movement launched by the American Legion, the American Federation of Labor and the organizations associated with them in the War Against Unemployment campaign.

"The officers of the American Federation of Labor are doing all they can within their power to make a complete success of this drive to secure jobs for one million workers."

Wilkerson Condemned As Unfit For Member of U. S. Circuit Court

Senator Norris Declares That Injunctions Against Railway Shopmen and Chicago Musicians Destroyed Labor's Rights, and Established Involuntary Servitude by Imposing Compulsory Work.

Washington, Feb. 27.—A scathing denunciation of Federal Judge James H. Wilkerson's labor injunction record was made by Senator Norris of Nebraska in his discussion of the bill limiting the power of Federal Judges to issue injunctions in labor disputes.

President Hoover nominated Judge Wilkerson to be a member of the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Seventh Judicial Circuit. Wilkerson's nomination was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee, which Senator Norris is chairman, for investigation as to his fitness for the position.

Wilkerson was appointed as district judge by President Harding, under the advice and at the suggestion of Attorney General Daugherty, Senator Norris said.

Injunction in Railway Shopmen's Strike

Hardly was the ink on the commission dry before the same attorney-General applied to this judge and secured from him an injunction applying to many thousands of railroad employes.

This injunction was issued at a time when the dispute between the railroads and their employes was in a fair way to settlement, and contained many of the obnoxious provisions which are almost invariably included in labor injunctions."

Injunction Against Chicago Musicians

"Another illustration of a conscienceless injunctionist is Judge Wilkerson," Senator Norris continued. "He issued an injunction, at the request of Mr. Dunne against the Chicago Federation of Musicians and others.

Strike Call Prohibited

This injunction was issued on the first day of September, 1928, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

"The then existing contracts of the musicians with motion picture Houses in Chicago had been signed on August 3, which was Sunday, and new contracts had not been agreed upon.

Negotiations Pending

"Negotiations had been pending for some time between these musicians and the theater bosses, but no definite agreement had been made.

"The musicians were asking that certain conditions be included in the new contracts of employment, which the employers and receivers for some of these houses refused.

"At this time, while these negotiations were pending and while before these contracts expired by their own terms, these theaters commenced this action against the defendants and without any notice to the defendants Judge Wilkerson issued his other one of his famous restraining orders.

Union By-Laws Abolished

"In this injunction, among other things, the defendants were restrained from enforcing certain provisions of their own by-laws.

"It seems that these musicians, in their own organizations, had various stipulations in their by-laws which may be enforced by the union, or by the trial judge, upon the filing of the complaint by the plaintiffs, and without any notice to the defendants, and on application was pending, issued an order restraining the defendants from in any way, directly or indirectly, enforcing the provisions of the by-laws.

Strike Can Be Prohibited

"In other words, the injunction restrained the defendants from making the demands which they were making in their negotiations with their employers. In some instances, in effect, it required these musicians to amend their by-laws. It restrained them, also, from ordering, commanding, directing or causing any strike.

"It likewise enjoined the defendants from levying or threatening to levy the employment of said receivers, either by way of strike or otherwise, unless with the consent of said receivers."

Union Activities Outlawed

"The injunction also restrained the defendants from imposing upon or levying or ordering against any member of said union any disciplinary suspension, erasure, expulsion, or assessment of whatsoever character for failure to leave the employment of said receivers, for refusal to refrain from the act of accepting employment of said receivers, for refusal to obey any command, order, rule, by-law, provision, direction, hint, suggestion, or request of whatsoever character of said union or any officer, committee, or member thereof that he leave or refrain from seeking or accepting such employment, or for refusal to do, perform, aid, assist, counsel, command, procure, or acquiesce in any act forbidden by this order."

"In this wonderful injunction there is no clear ray of hope. The injunction did contain a provision that the defendants could have a right to appear in court and petition the court for a modification of this drastic order. What a wonderful and merciful thing that was.

Compulsory Work Imposed

"The injunction was issued at 10 o'clock on Saturday morning.

"It became before it was served it was probably late in the afternoon of Saturday.

"The court was not in session, of course, on Sunday.

"The contracts expired on Sunday by their own terms and, by the terms of the decree, these defendants were restrained from quitting the employment of the plaintiffs unless the plaintiffs consented.

"If they continued to negotiate on new contracts, they were compelled to such negotiations from even asking their employers to put certain things in the contract for which the defendants had been contending.

"They were compelled to remain in the employment after the expiration of their written contracts and were not even allowed, in trying to get new contracts, to ask that anything should be put in those contracts which the employers did not want put in.

Wilkerson's Decree of Human Slavery

"I wonder if anyone can conceive that such an order issued by Judge Wilkerson is not, in effect, an order of involuntary servitude?

"Can anyone claim for a moment that it is not a decree of human slavery?

"This calls to our attention not only that there should enact proper legislation on this subject but that we should likewise be careful in passing upon any nomination which the President may make in the appointment of a judge to sit in judgment upon the law we shall make.

"Not only is it necessary that the wisest law be passed, but it is equally important that no person should be selected to administer the law as judge whose bias and prejudice and whose inclination might lead him to find a loophole of some kind by which such unconscionable injunction could be issued."

78,076 JOBS FOUND IN NATIONAL DRIVE

American Legion and Allied Groups Report Large Gains in Campaign to Aid 1,000,000 Unemployed—Railroad Executives Cooperate—Organized Labor in Vanguard.

New York, Feb. 27.—The nation-wide efforts of the War Against Depression to find jobs for a million and a million unemployed found jobs for 78,076 unemployed workers in the first seven days of the drive, according to a compilation made at the campaign headquarters here.

Railroad Executives Cooperate

Added impetus to the job-finding campaign was given by the announcement that executives and presidents of important railroads had assigned executive officials of the roads to assist the committee in its drive against the depression.

Mark T. McKee, executive director, and Carl Byoir, director of organization, said the action of the railroad executives would greatly increase the effect in speeding up the job-finding work.

The railroads represented are: Pennsylvania; Southern Railway; Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe; Illinois Central; Northwestern; Chicago, Burlington & Quincy; Illinois Central; Chesapeake & Ohio; Texas & Pacific; Missouri Pacific; New York Central; Norfolk & Western; Southern Pacific; St. Louis & San Francisco; Boston & Maine; Louisville & Nashville; New York, New Haven & Hartford; Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, and Erie Railroad. Representatives of these railroads will work in their own territory where they are familiar with unemployment conditions.

Organized Labor on the Job

According to reports received at the national headquarters of the Committee the campaign for work is spreading from every State.

It was stated that twenty-two communities had pledged $8,266,510 to the campaign. Helmerich, Orr, and Wilits, Calif., reported they had solved their unemployment problem.

The national campaign committee declared that organized labor is in the vanguard of the drive for jobs for a million jobs for a million jobless workers. State Federation of Labor, central bodies and local unions, it was stated, are cooperating thoroughly with other organizations in the struggle to increase employment.

The campaign for employment is headed by the American Legion, the American Federation of Labor, the Association of National Advertisers, and the Legion Auxiliary.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF MEASURES IN CONGRESS

Three Bills for Loans to States and Federal Aid for Highway Work Get Consideration as Substitutes for the Defeated Costigan-La Follette Plan for Direct Relief.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Three Federal unemployment relief measures were pushed forward in Congress after the defeat of the $750,000,000 Costigan-La Follette bill in the Senate.

$700,000,000 for State Loans and Federal Buildings

The Labor Committee of the House of Representatives ordered a favorable report on a bill authorizing the appropriation of $700,000,000 to give indirect aid to the unemployed. Of this amount, $300,000,000 would be loaned to States which have the authority to borrow money. $200,000,000 would be granted to States whose constitutions prohibit borrowing, and $200,000,000 is voted to Federal public building projects not yet estimated for.

The loans run for 10 years and bear not more than 5 per cent interest. If a State has not repaid its loan at the end of ten years the amount would be deducted in instalments from the Federal highway aid to the State for highway construction.

The bill provides that $175,000,000 shall be immediately available for loans for the fiscal year ending July 1, 1932.

The House Labor Committee substituted this bill for the one introduced by Representative David J. Lewis of Maryland. The Lewis bill was the companion bill of the Costigan-La Follette bill which the Senate defeated.

Wagner Bill Provides $750,000,000

The Senate Committee on Manufactures made a favorable report on the bill for unemployment relief introduced by Senator Robert F. Wagner, New York.

The bill provides for $750,000,000, of which $375,000,000 is for advance to States and $375,000,000 is for road construction. The allotments authorized for the Federal funds should be matched by State funds.

Senator Wagner stated the debate in the Senate on the La Follette-Costigan bill developed the general conviction that there was "an immediate and irresistible urgency to 'provide relief for those in want' and that relief should be haunted by reason of the prolonged unemployment."

He said that "it is unthinkable that we should permit differences over the method of distribution to defeat the whole purpose of a relief measure." His bill, he added, "resolves the differences that divided the opponents of relief in the Senate" when the La Follette-Costigan bill was defeated.

$1,000,000,000 for Highways

The Committee on Roads of the House of Representatives reported favorably a bill to provide immediately $1,000,000,000 for road construction. This measure is designed to give immediate employment to labor. The money would be apportioned to the States by the Secretary of Agriculture and would be repaid over a period of ten years beginning with 1933 by deductions from the regular Federal allotments for road construction.

The measure carries a proviso giving the Secretary of Agriculture authority to make regulations "with the view of providing the maximum employment."

Senate Debates Bill to End Injunctions in Labor Disputes

Senator Norris Opens Arguments for Enactment of Measure to Prohibit Judges From Imposing Industrial Servitude Upon the Workers—Injunction Tyranny Destroys Freedom and Equality.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Organized Labor's legislative struggle for relief from the servitude imposed by injunctions in labor disputes took one step further ahead on February 25, 1932, when Senator George M. Norris, chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, opened the Senate debate on the Norris anti-injunction bill.

Injunction a Harsh Remedy

"The writ of injunction is always a harsh remedy," Senator Norris said.

"It is one which should never be resorted to except in cases where irreparable injury will result unless a restraining hand is put forth to prevent it.

"It should never be issued except in cases where the law will afford no relief.

"It is a remedy having application only to property rights.

"Whenever it is used to deny the fundamental rights and privileges of free citizens, it becomes tyrannous and oppressive.

Injunction Cruelty

"The cruelty of the injunction has been especially apparent in disputes between labor and capital, and it has often occurred in such cases that the real object of the injunction is not to protect property but to restrain the constitutional rights of individuals and thus to interfere with human liberty.

"Its use in labor disputes has been a gradual growth, coincident with the growth and power of immense combinations of wealth.

Deprives Workers of Freedom

"As monopoly has increased its hold upon great business undertakings and operations, and as combinations of great wealth have been formed for the financial enrichment of those engaged in the monopoly, the power thus attained for the even enrichment has often been used to take away the freedom of laboring men who are compelled to toil for the support of themselves and those dependent upon them.

Monopoly Forms of Employment

"The ordinary laboring man is powerless to cope with such combinations, and he must accept employment upon the terms which monopoly offers or become a subject of charity and see his family and those immediately dependent upon him deprived of the ordinary comforts of life.

Purpose of Labor Unions

"To prevent this result laboring men have organized into associations and unions that they may present, through a united front to the demands of combined wealth and great aggregations of capital.

Involuntary Servitude

"Their right to do this has become unlawfully restricted, by means largely of harsh, cruel, and misused injunctive process, monopoly, through the assistance of our courts, has interfered by means of injunctions, which, in their effect, does not differ from the writ of a master who will have a slave in the days when the right of labor to have a voice in the wage fund existed, and the right to strike has often been involuntary servitude on the part of those who must toil in order that they and their families may live.

"Such conditions bring about involuntary servitude—a species of economic slavery. Involuntary servitude necessarily exist in a free country; and such economic slavery is as cruel, as merciless, and as effective as slavery based upon the color of the human skin.

"The man who, by force of economic conditions, is compelled to toil against his wish and under conditions depriving him of his freedom, is a slave even though his skin may be white.

Injunction Tyranny

"The tyranny of some of these injunctions has taken away the freedom and the liberty of many of our citizens as completely and as tyrannically as ever occurred in days when slavery was recognized by the Constitution."

Senator Norris gave a number of examples of injunction tyranny in which judges have prohibited the workers to exercise such rights as free speech, free press, free assemblage, talking about a labor controversy, persuading workers to join a union, paying funds to finance strikes, and stating that a concert is unfair to organized labor or that a strike is declared.

Equality Before the Law

"What we ought to do," Senator Norris continued, "is to have the same rule of law apply to the poor as to the rich; to the ignorant as well as to the wise; to the weak as well as to the strong. This bill does nothing more.

"It provides for a trial by jury for anyone who is guilty of fraud or violence.

"It limits the injunction to such cases as common, ordinary justice demands it should be limited.

Right to Organize

"It permits laboring men to organize for the purpose of improving their conditions.

"It recognizes their right to organize themselves for the purpose of their labors.

"It prevents great aggregations of capital, from combining against the weak and the poor in any way which would deprive them of the ordinary rights of free American citizens.

Justice Between Labor and Capital

"It attempts to establish the scales of justice all the elements which ought to be considered in passing upon controversies between labor and capital.

"It asks for the laboring man nothing that if the conditions were reversed he would not be awarded the concern under present conditions.

Respect for Courts

"Its enactment into law will, I believe, do away with much of the evil, from which the men complain, I think—against the Federal courts.

"After all, a court, to be effective, must be respected.

"It is the duty of all citizens to obey all of the orders and judgments of our courts, but the success of our courts in the performance of our functions will be seriously affected and retarded if its orders are unjust and unfair.

Prevents Injustice in Labor Disputes

"I believe that with the enactment of this bill into law will not only prevent injustice in labor disputes, but that its effect will be to place upon a higher plane all of our courts, and that they will have the full respect for all our judiciary tribunals."

Norris Brands Yellow Dog Contract As Economic Slavery

Declares It Abolishes the Rights of Labor, Renders the Workers Helpless, and Compels Them to Surrender Their Liberty for Food and Shelter—Anti-Injunction Bill Outlaws the Monstrosity.

Washington, Feb. 27.—In his opening speech in the Senate on the anti-injunction bill which bears his name, Senator Norris of Nebraska, chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, gave a vivid description and vitriolic condemnation of the "yellow dog" contract which the injunction bill outlaws.

He charged that by the use of the "yellow dog" contract employers set up a dictatorship which abolishes the rights of Labor and makes veritable slaves of the workers.

Employer Dictatorship Established

"In a great many of the injunctions which the courts have issued in labor disputes," Senator Norris said, "the basis for the injunction was a written contract of employment, signed by the employe when he accepted employment.

"This contract has become almost universally known as the 'yellow-dog' contract.

"It requires the employe, as a condition of obtaining employment, to agree that he will not join a union while he is in the employment, or, that if he is then a member of a union, he will disassociate himself from it; that he recognizes the right of the employer to discharge him without notice; that he will not quit his employment without giving sufficient notice to his employer to enable him to hire some one to take his place.

"The employe in most of these contracts agrees in advance to accept such conditions of labor, hours of labor, and so forth, as may from time to time be decided upon by the employer.

Abandons Rights of Labor

"Not all of these contracts are the same.

"Other and similar conditions from those noted are sometimes added, but in a general way, they all have the same effect.

"They take away from the laboring man the right to have any influence at all about any of the conditions connected with his employment.

"The hours of labor, conditions under which the labor is to be performed, the right of the laborer to bargain for betterment whenever he becomes dissatisfied, the amount of pay which he shall receive, the right of the employer to reduce the pay at any time without notice, and so forth—all of these things are turned over entirely and solely to the corporation or individual owning or operating the business.

Imposes Servitude

"The employe waives his right absolutely to free association and collective representation in connection with his wages, the hours of labor, and any other conditions of employment.

"In other words, he surrenders his actual liberty of contract, and to a great extent enters into voluntary servitude.

Workers Must Sign to Get a Job

"I know it can be said, and always is said, that the man seeking work does not have to sign this contract; that he does not have to work under the conditions named in the contract, because he has the right to refuse to enter into any employment contrary to what he believes to be right.

"This, as a practical proposition, is no defense whatever.

"If the laboring man, looking for labor refuses to sign this contract, he can go on to some other corporation looking for the same kind of a business and apply for a job.

"But when he does he will be confronted with the same 'yellow dog' contract.

"As he goes from place to place in his attempt to get work in his chosen field he will always be confronted with the same conditions.

"For instance, if the man hunting a job is a coal miner he presents himself at the office of the corporation, asks for a job, and he is at once confronted with the 'yellow dog' contract and told to sign on the dotted line.

"If he declines to sign and goes to the next coal mine, he is presented with the same contract, and so on through-out the entire coal field.

Makes Slaves of Employes

"The result is that by the combination of large corporations in a particular line of business, the laboring man must accept unconditionally the terms laid down by the employer.

"He is absolutely helpless under such contracts.

"His family can not have food to eat or clothes to wear unless he gets a job.

"If he gets a job he must surrender his liberty.

"He must, for the time being, become a slave. He can not associate with his fellows.

"In connection with his fellows, he can not present a grievance to the employer.

"He has agreed to make no such demands.

"If conditions become unbearable his only remedy is to go elsewhere and face the possible combination of perhaps millions of wealth.

Slave Contract or Starve

"He must simply present an grievance he has.

"He must abide by the decision which is thus given him. He has no appeal.

"He has no opportunity to join with his fellows and make his demands effective, in effect, if he must live and support himself, his wife and children, he must surrender his liberty.

Bill Outlaws "Yellow Dog"

"These conditions have grown up because of the combination of great aggregations of wealth. The poor man, standing alone, is powerless to oppose. This bill declares that such contracts are contrary to the public policy of the United States, shall not be enforceable and shall not afford any basis for the granting of legal or equitable relief by any court of the United States.

"Many of the injunctions which have been issued in the past in labor disputes have been based wholly, or in a large part, upon these contracts, and upon the assumption that they are valid.

"As I have briefly outlined, this bill sets up a public policy.

"One of the objects of this proposed legislation is to outlaw this unconscionable and indefensible contract; and some action by Congress in this respect is absolutely necessary, because, as I have said, many labor injunctions have been sustained on the theory that such contracts are legal.

"By the abolition of these unconscionable contracts, this bill sets on the billion a beacon of human liberty," Senator Norris went on.

Secures Liberty for the Poor

"It gives to those who toil, to those who are poor, to those who by the sweat of their faces contribute to the happiness of humble homes the enjoyment of that freedom and that liberty which is necessary in every free country for all of its citizens and not by one class of its people.

"It gives liberty to the downtrodden and the poor, and in this respect puts them on an equality with those who live in luxury and plenty.

"Human liberty after all is just as precious to the man who toils in the darkness of the bottomless mine as it is to the man who controls a nation or who owns unlimited wealth.

"It gives hope to the little children of those who have no hope if liberty is blotted out.

"It brings joy, and peace to the humble fireside in the weather-beaten cottage.

"It fills the breast with pride and with love of country and of all mankind."

UNEMPLOYMENT MEETING IN PHILADELPHIA, MARCH 5

Philadelphia, Pa., Feb. 27.—The Philadelphia Central Labor Union has arranged for a meeting at the new Convention Hall here on Saturday afternoon, March 5, to "demand adequate relief for the unemployed."

Frank Burch, secretary of the Union, said the speakers would include: Governor Pinchot of Pennsylvania; United States Senator Edward P. Costigan of Colorado; William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor; Dr. John A. Ryan of the National Catholic Welfare Council; Jacob Billikopf of the Philadelphia Community Council, and John A. Phillips, president of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor.

GOV. WILSON NAMES BOARD TO STUDY CONVICT LABOR

Montpelier, Vt., Feb. 27.—Governor Stanley C. Wilson announced the appointment of a commission created by the 1931 legislature to study the problem of employment of convicts in the State prison and the disposal of prison-made goods.

The Commission was created because of the enactment by Congress of the Hawes-Cooper law, effective in January, 1934, which will take away the rights of prison-made goods in interstate commerce and make such goods shipped from one State into any other State subject to the local laws of the latter.

EMPLOYERS USE JOBLESS TO LOWER WAGE RATES

Washington, Feb. 27.—A protest against employing jobless workers at low wages to undermine wage rates was voiced by the International Engineer, the official journal of the International Union of Operating Engineers, in an editorial entitled "Innocent Propaganda for Low Wages."

The editorial says in part:

"There is a growing practice of aiding the unemployed wage earners by the employment temporarily at work which is usually classified as work for the relief of the unemployed, but which is given at a wage rate lower than the wage rate that is paid for similar kinds of work.

"There are many instances which may be cited to show that certain work which is usually done by men at a standard wage rate is now being done by the unemployed at a low wage scale.

"Such a form of help for the unemployed tends to lower the general wage standards, and while it may help the unemployed temporarily it will injure the and harm all wage earners.

"This form of helping the unemployed is likely to lower the general wage standards of those who are working regularly—and the local unions should be put on their guard wherever relief is given to the unemployed in the form of low wages. For this form of charity is bound to injure the working wage earners and in the long run becomes a permanent injury to them."

"Unless the local unions keep their eyes open on the methods put into practice in local relief labor employment," the editorial concludes, "considerable harm will be done to union labor in that the wage scales will be pushed down more than they have been.

"There is always the temptation of employers to take advantage of wage earners by employing the lowest paid help they can get, and by taking relief labor instead of the regular labor they should employ and that at a standard rate."

WOMEN IN FEDERAL SERVICE SECURE BETTER POSITIONS

Washington, Feb. 27.—The number of women holding important positions in the Federal service is larger than ever before, stated Commissioner Jessie M. Dell of the U. S. Civil Service Commission. Records of the Commission show that 7,976 women were appointed to the Federal classified service the last year.

"Positions held by women are no longer confined to the lower levels," Commissioner Dell said. "The number of women appointed to higher grades of administrative positions and to jobs requiring technical, professional or scientific training is increasing steadily.

"A duty to make good rests upon women when they undertake either Government or private work, for there is still a remnant of distrust as to their ability to carry their full burden of responsibility when they compete with men."

CENTURY AIR LINES USE THUG METHODS

Cord's Concern Employs Gangsters, La Guardia Says—Citizens Warned Against Patronizing Company's Planes—Mail Contracts Menaced.

Washington, Feb. 27.—The use of gangster-thug methods in the endeavor of the Century Air Lines, Inc., radiating from Cleveland, to "remonopolize the air of aviation" by forcing the wages of employees down to $125 a month was intimated by Representative La Guardia in a speech in the House of Representatives condemning the activities of Errett L. Cord, president of the concern.

The wage cut was directed against the Air Pilots' Association, which is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

Gangster Methods Practiced

To show that the practice of hiring thugs was practiced with the Century Air Lines officials, La Guardia produced as copy of a letter said to have been written recently by W. F. Bliss, general manager of the concern, to the chief mechanic in Detroit, urging gangster methods in getting rid of a competitor, who was a bus line that connected both with the competitor's air line and the Century Air Lines.

"Beat Him Up"

Bliss claimed the competitor, Thompson by name, told Century Air Lines passengers on the bus with Thompson's passengers to get a refund of their fare and go on the first airship, which was Thompson's.

"I cannot understand," Bliss said in his letter, "why something cannot be done that would be necessary for anyone to tell you not to permit this, but rather arrange to offset it and, if possible, give Thompson a dose of his own medicine that would make him more than well everybody just what to do.

"We have a couple of good hard-boiled scrapper and ride him on that bus all day long. If he says anyone makes a surmise to any passenger about Thompson, have this tough beat him up. It was necessary to do this in the early railroad days and also in the packing business, and it seems to me apparently it is necessary for us to adopt this sort of tactics.

"Get busy on the situation right now and let me hear from you what has been done about it."

Boycott of Century Planes Urged

In commenting on the methods used by the management of the Century Air Lines, Representative La Guardia said:

"Mr. Cord may have taken the romance out of aviation, but he has put the undertaker in aviation. I am quite sure the gentlemen of the House who have and are taking an active interest in the development of aviation will agree that such conditions must not exist in commercial aviation and that it is quite proper we should advise the traveling public to stay off the Century planes until such time as experienced pilots are replaced on their ships."

Mail Contracts Menaced

It was revealed in the House discussion that the Century Air Lines had applied to the Postmaster General for certain air mail contracts. Mr. La Guardia declared that such contracts would not be awarded the concern under present conditions.

"Mr. Cord might as well know," La Guardia said, "that if he is conducting this airline on gangster-thug methods, as indicated in the letter I have just quoted, and if he expects that citizens paying fares are going to be in danger of, being beaten up, according to the written instructions in their own letter, and pay pilots less than the prevailing rate of the profession, he may never hope to have a contract as long as this low type of individuals are in charge of the Century Air Lines."

SUFFERING IN CLEVELAND BUILDING TRADES GROWS

Cleveland, Ohio, Feb. 27.—"While local unions affiliated with the Cleveland Building Trades Council are carrying on in the best way they can," declared Harry McLaughlin, business representative of the Council, "the suffering among the rank and file of these workers is becoming intensified. The longer the present conditions bear out the worse it must be for these men who depend on their work in the building line to meet their obligations."

"We have heard a lot about relief," Mr. McLaughlin continued, "no doubt everything possible has been done by the administration of the city and county to relieve suffering among our people, but we are still of the opinion that the most essential help for the sufferers from unemployment is the creation of work.

"Any readjustment that is made to correct the present depression, wherein the result is always unemployment of the workers, must be based on the equalization of conditions with production, and this can only be done by shortening the work week and the hours per day to meet any exigency as it arises from any cause."

W. VA. COMPENSATION FUND HAS 18 YEARS OF SUCCESS

Charleston, W. Va., Feb. 27.—The State workmen's compensation fund, owned and operated by the State of West Virginia, is a complete success, according to the annual report of the State Compensation Commissioner, Lee Ott.

At the close of the fiscal year ended June 30, 1931, the fund had assets of $19,104,666, liabilities of $18,982,727, and surplus of $121,939. There were 215,596 employees covered by the fund.

During the fiscal year the compensation the total income of the State fund has been $65,966,361. Loss payments during the period aggregated $40,574,803, with additional loss reserves of $18,151,746, making the total loss payments, paid and reserved, $63,426,549. There were 215,495 employees covered.

Administration expense has been 4.23 per cent of the earned premiums, Mr. Ott reported.